

Appln. No.: 09/963,324
Amendment Dated June 12, 2007
Reply to Office Action April 10, 2007

MATP-611US

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Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 16-18 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 9 and 15 are cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 7-8, 13-14 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Luchaup and Allen et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

With regard to claim 1, neither Luchaup, Allen et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest,

... a receiver for receiving feedback signals, the feedback signals representing items in a control menu for controlling the electronic device, the receiver operably linked to the audio transducer for **converting the feedback signals into audio prompts**, corresponding to the control menu items, to the operator wherein the audio input is responsive to a further utterance representing a selection of one of the menu items...(Emphasis added).

Basis for this amendment may be found in paragraph [0057].

The user interface of Luchaup provides feedback via an LCD or LED and allows a user to acknowledge and/or make correction, if necessary, before forwarding a command to an appliance. (Para [0034]). Thus, the feedback signals in Luchaup are **not converted into audio prompts**. Furthermore, the feedback signal represents only a single command and not "items in a control menu" as required by claim 1. Furthermore, there is no "further utterance representing a selection of one of the menu items," as required by claim 1.

Allen et al. discloses a list of contacts 252 stored within the remote control 106. (Para. [0059] and Fig. 2). The contacts are displayed as text on the remote control device and the user is prompted by text to select one of the contacts. The remote control may then reproduce a verbal confirmation of the selected item using a speaker 242. (Para. [0096]). The verbal identifier 526 corresponding to a contact within the list is, however, in the form of a **digital audio sample** of the contact's spoken name. Thus, the verbal identifiers in Allen et al. do not represent items in a menu and are **not converted from feedback signals**.

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In contrast, the exemplary embodiment of the present invention converts feedback signals representing items in a menu **into audio prompts**, as recited in claim 1. For example, **control parameters** of a device (i.e. a VCR) may be presented as feedback signals that are **converted from text into an audio prompt** for output by speaker 29. (Para. [0057]). Because Luchaup and Allen et al. do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Allen et al. Claims 2-3 and 7-8 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-3 and 7-8 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Allen et al.

With regard to claim 13 and 16-18, these claims, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 13 and 16-18 are also not subject to rejection for the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 14 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 14 is also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Allen et al.

Claims 4-6 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Luchaup, Allen et al. and Mignot et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection. As described above, Luchaup and Allen et al. do not disclose the features of claim 1.

Mignot et al. displays a list of words or groups of words on the a screen corresponding to the functional features of a device which can be accessed by voice control in a window of the screen. This enables the user to ascertain the key words which he has to utter in order to trigger the functional features. The menu in Mignot et al. is displayed on the television screen. (Col. 4, lines 16-20). The user must look at the screen to navigate the menu. Mignot et al. does not transmit feedback signals, corresponding to the menu items, to a remote control for providing audio prompts to the operator. Thus, claim 1 does not disclose the features of claim 1. Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 4-6 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Allen et al. and Mignot et al.

Claim 10, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, Mignot et al. also does not disclose the features of claim 10. Claims 11-12 depends from claim 10. Accordingly, claims 11-

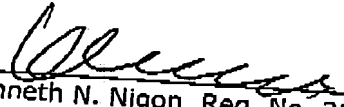
Appln. No.: 09/963,324
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MATP-611US

12 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Alien et al. and Mignot et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-14 and 16-18.

Respectfully submitted,


Kenneth N. Nigon, Reg. No. 31,549
Attorney(s) for Applicant(s)

KNN/pb


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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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June 12, 2007


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